

August 24, 2023

THE NEXUS

NEWSLETTER FOR THE IDAHO LIBRARY COMMUNITY

Public Comment Period for DAAI Plan is Open through September 8

The draft of the Digital Access for All Idahoans (DAAI) Plan is open for review and public comment through September 8, 2023. To view the draft Plan and for more information, visit: <https://libraries.idaho.gov/digital-access-for-all-idahoans/>.

The online comment form may be accessed here: <https://forms.office.com/g/cAk6iLYRkQ>. The form can also be printed, completed, and mailed to: Idaho Commission for Libraries, Attn: DAAI Plan Comments, 325 W. State Street, Boise, ID 83702.

Feedback from Idahoans about the DAAI Plan is a critical part of the process. The Plan is still in draft form, and comments and input will be considered before the DAAI Plan is finalized. A revised Plan will be available in October after the public comment period ends.

The Idaho Commission for Libraries partnered with Boise State University's Idaho Policy Institute for support in creating the robust and comprehensive five-year statewide DAAI Plan, which will serve as a benchmark and roadmap for achieving digital equity in Idaho.

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<https://libraries.idaho.gov>



ICfL Announced +\$3.5 Million in Facilities Grants

The Idaho Commission for Libraries (ICfL) announced the award of more than \$3.25 million to 15 public libraries in Idaho through its Facilities Improvement Grant. Funding was made available from the U.S. Department of the Treasury's Capital Projects Fund.

The selection criteria for this highly competitive grant included the grant objectives and requirements set forth by the U.S. Department of the Treasury. Of particular importance for this funding source was the need for projects to be substantially completed by August 2026, to address a critical community need, and to jointly and directly enable work, education, and health monitoring.

The review committee for the grant was comprised of ICfL staff and a director from an Idaho public library (not applying for the grant). Libraries were scored according to a rubric, and final selection of the projects was based on a number of factors, including the total score and how well all criteria were met. To distinguish between viable projects with similar scores and quality, additional consideration was given to geographic representation and distribution of projects throughout the state. The ICfL received 39 grant applications with more than \$13 million in requested funds.

"I am so appreciative of this exceptional opportunity that will allow some of our public libraries to make significant improvements or additions to their facilities on a scale that has never been available before with federal funding," said State Librarian Stephanie Bailey-White. "Staff of these libraries will be able to serve their community members in greatly improved ways, such as through innovations and safer access to and use of their buildings."

The Facilities Improvement Grant recipients are:

Bear Lake County Library District (Montpelier) -- \$4,800

Funding will be used to create safe, usable parking spaces on the library lot to improve safety and accessibility of parking for winter/year-round access and to resolve roof drainage issues.

Benewah County Free Library District – Tri-Community Library (Fernwood) -- \$500,000

Funding will be used to build a new library to replace an existing structure that is no longer functional nor meets the needs of the community.

Burley Public Library -- \$500,000

Funding will be used for a 1,900-square-foot expansion of the library space and the remodeling of 600 square feet of existing space. The work will bring the library up to current building codes, create a new flexible-use community meeting space, and create two private study/telehealth rooms.

Cascade Public Library -- \$500,000

Funding will be used to add 1,000 square feet of interior space and 1,500 square feet of usable exterior space. The library will add a dedicated media/telehealth room, kitchen space, and two ADA-accessible restrooms. There will also be a separate children's area.

Clearwater County Free Library District (Weippe) -- \$107,000

Funding will be used to improve accessibility and safety of parking for winter/year-round access; to install a generator to address frequent winter power outages; to upgrade the IT network infrastructure to expand Wi-Fi access; and to create outdoor seating with charging stations for 24-hour access to Wi-Fi.

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ICfL Announced +\$3.5 Million in Facilities Grants

The Facilities Improvement Grant recipients are:

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Eagle Public Library -- \$15,000

Funding will be used to enhance ADA compliance of restrooms and for the purchase of additional library seating to allow for full usage of existing spaces.

Elk River Free Library District -- \$43,000

Funding will be used to address various access and safety issues, including creating ADA-accessible walkways, installing some outdoor roofing/covering to allow for outdoor programming, and addressing the flooding and drainage issues in the parking lot that make it difficult and hazardous to access the library during the winter/inclement weather.

Emmett Public Library -- \$53,000

Funding will be used to improve building access by installing ADA-compliant doors, adding a pergola cover to expand usable outdoor space and improve the usability of the 24-hour holds locker, and installing an awning over the meeting room entrance to improve safety and accessibility.

Garden City Public Library -- \$92,000

Funding will be used to remodel an existing space to create two ADA-compliant private study/telehealth meeting spaces.

Hailey Public Library -- \$50,000

Funding will be used to enclose the current computer lab to better facilitate use of the space and to purchase additional seating for part of the library that is underutilized.

Homedale Library District -- \$19,000

Funding will be used to upgrade an underutilized building to create a community center/program area, upgrade an electrical system, and to purchase additional shelving and a storage shed.

Prairie River Library District - Lapwai Branch -- \$200,000

Funding will be used to repair and rebuild a portion of the library building that has been deemed unsafe and is currently unusable. This will allow the library to reoccupy the full footprint of the building and provide for future expansion of the library.

South Bannock Library District - Inkom Branch -- \$500,000

Funding will be used to construct a new library branch in a community that currently only has limited bookmobile access.

St. Maries Public Library -- \$500,000

Funding will be used to enclose a 1,300-square foot open-air daylight basement that will be used as meeting space. It will include ADA-compliant restrooms and a kitchen.

Wilder Public Library District -- \$175,000

Funding will be used to remodel the library's existing meeting space, which will include systems and electrical upgrades; remodel restroom for ADA accessibility; replace the furnace; enclose the entryway for better accessibility; and create usable outdoor space for meetings and programming.

For more, visit <https://libraries.idaho.gov/facilities-capital-improvements/>.

Regional School Library Access Workshops in Sept.

There will be regional School Library Access for All Workshops coming in September. They will be held in: Boise on September 6; Idaho Falls on September 8, and Sandpoint on September 13. For more, check out the August issue of "The Scoop."
<https://libraries.idaho.gov/publications/scoop/>

Idaho Family Reading Week -- Registration Opens Sept. 15

Registration for Idaho Family Reading Week opens September 15. Space is limited to the first 100 libraries that register (to receive free books).
<https://libraries.idaho.gov/rtm/2023-idaho-family-reading-week/>

ION Power Up Summit -- Sept. 20-21 in Boise Contact ICfL for Free Registration

The Idaho Out-of-School Network's (ION) Annual Power Up Summit will be held September 20 and 21, 2023, at JUMP in Boise. It is the only statewide conference dedicated solely to out-of-school time. To get a code to receive FREE registration, email Jennifer Redford at Jennifer.Redford@libraries.idaho.gov.

Read to Me Rendezvous -- Coming in November

Read to Me Rendezvous will be held in Boise November 14-15, 2023. Check out the September issue of "The Scoop" for details.



Idaho Teen Reading Challenge -- Begins October 1

The Idaho Teen Reading Challenge will begin October 1. Registration for materials should be open soon. Check here for the latest info:
<https://libraries.idaho.gov/tweens-teens/general-programming-resources/idaho-teen-reading-challenge>
(Also, there will be a 30-minute info session on September 7.)

Congrats, 2023-24 SLA Mini-Grantees!



Congratulations to the 42 recipients of the 2023-24 School Library Access (SLA) mini-grant. The \$200,000 was awarded in amounts ranging from \$1,000 to \$5,000. The grant helps school libraries throughout Idaho provide students access to the books they need. The application for the 2024-25 SLA mini-grant will open in January 2024.

<https://libraries.idaho.gov/school-libraries/elementary-school-grants/>



Bucks for Books Application Open through Oct. 8

The 2023-24 Idaho Lottery Bucks for Books award application is open through October 8. Idaho's publicly funded elementary school libraries that have not yet received a Bucks for Books award may apply for up to \$3,000 to buy books for the school library's collection. This is the fifth year the Idaho Commission for Libraries has partnered with the Idaho Lottery to bring books to elementary school libraries throughout the Gem State. <https://libraries.idaho.gov/school-libraries/bucks-for-books/>



LTAI Underway for 2023-24

The Let's Talk About It (LTAI) program is underway at libraries around the state. LTAI brings adult reading discussion groups together with humanities scholars in Idaho's public libraries to discuss literature. The Idaho Commission for Libraries administers the program, including providing the themed books for libraries to utilize. For this program year, 26 libraries applied, 15 were selected. For more, including this year's participating libraries, visit <https://libraries.idaho.gov/lta/>.

LTAI is made possible by the Idaho Humanities Council, the National Endowment for the Humanities, and the Institute of Museum and Library Services.



Stats

A few stats from the ICfL -- state fiscal year (FY) 2023 (July 1, 2022 - June 30, 2023).

FY 23



\$184,345

reimbursed to
69 public libraries
for their portion of
internet bills not
covered by E-rate

+22 libraries reimbursed

\$74,685

for content filtering &
mobile hotspots

My First Books (MFB)

45 libraries served

approx. **4,900**
children

distributed
44,000
books



IDEA

nearly 27,000
e-book/audio titles
made available at
no cost



Summer Summit 2023

The ICfL hosted another successful Summer Summit for Idaho school librarians -- who got techie with VR headsets! Each librarian who attended the in-person Summer Summit got a VR headset for their school. With help from STEM Forged, 360 Immersive, and Peekka, librarians learned how to use their headsets, access the tools needed for their students, and build their own VR experience. Participants also discussed applications for learning. Plans are already underway for Summer Summit 2024.



Snapshot Day -- Coming October 24

It's been a while . . . but we're bringing back Snapshot Day. It will be Tuesday, October 24, 2023.

It is geared for public libraries, but all libraries may participate. We'll send out a link to a form to use for capturing certain stats on that one day.

Snapshot Day is a designated day that libraries document the activities, events, usage, circulation, etc., in their library for one day -- so we can capture the impact Idaho libraries have on their communities during a typical day.

We hope you'll plan to take photos, gather stories and stats, and share the great things that happen at your library -- on October 24th and every day! (There will also be prizes!) Keep an eye out for more info via LibIdaho and the ICfL's Facebook page.

Digital Navigator Service from ICfL

The Idaho Commission for Libraries (ICfL) has recently launched its Digital Navigator service that offers Idahoans one-on-one help over the phone. The ICfL's Digital Navigators Help Line is 208-398-0098. And there are self-guided tutorials on the website: IdahoDigitalSkills.org.

Idahoans can get help to:

- Find financial assistance to get online
- Learn to use computers, tablets, and phones
- Find and use online resources, including online library services

Public libraries will be receiving a new Digital Navigators bookmark. For more on the service, contact the ICfL's Digital Inclusion Consultant Chelsea Summerlin at Chelsea.Summerlin@libraries.idaho.gov.



In early August, ICfL board member Michael Strickland and his daughter, Michaela, were part of a group who had "breakfast with the Governor" at Idaho State University through the Pocatello Chamber of Commerce.

First Director 101 Cohort Graduated

The first Idaho Commission for Libraries' (ICfL) Director 101 cohort graduated on August 11. The day included informative sessions, networking, a mock board meeting, and cake!

The cohort is comprised of public library directors from around the state who have been in their role for less than five years. Over 10 months, they completed more than 20 hours of training on various topics, including E-rate, policies and procedures, strategic planning, and budgeting.

There will be a new cohort of Director 101 selected in December to start in January 2024. Everyone will be allowed to apply; however, priority will be given to new directors. Look for application details via LibIdaho. Contact ICfL Public Library Consultant Clay Ritter for more: clay.ritter@libraries.idaho.gov.



TBS' Impact

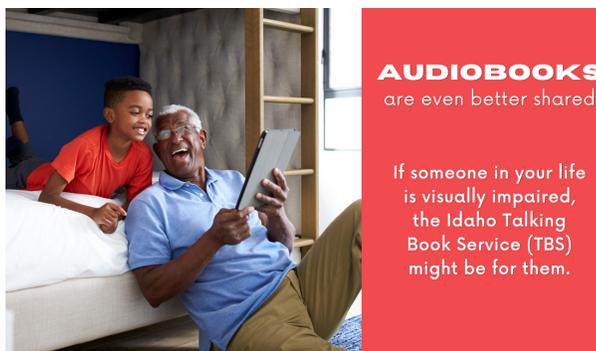


Here is an example of the impact the Idaho Talking Book Service (TBS) makes for so many Idahoans and their families:

“We visited my parents yesterday. My dad has been losing his vision the past couple of years . . . it’s become really difficult for him to read lately (and he loves to read). The folks at the Emmett Library hooked him up with the Idaho Talking Book Service. What a game changer. He was so excited to show me the player and how the program works with the sending/receiving of cartridges -- like a kid with a new toy. Thanks to you and your team for all you do to provide services like this -- definitely a quality-of-life impact.”

All public libraries should have marketing materials and a TBS player and cartridge to show patrons who might be interested in the service. If not, please contact TBS Program Supervisor LeAnn Gelskey at LeAnn.Gelskey@libraries.idaho.gov. If you would like to learn more about TBS, there are videos on the ICfL’s YouTube Channel: https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCExw_h-fMO5aBU_W-osouKw.

There are some new TBS FB art/posts available on the “promoting TBS” page of the ICfL website: <https://libraries.idaho.gov/tbs/promoting-tbs/>. Soon there will also be more TBS resources available in Spanish.



Libby Resources



If you need to brush up on your knowledge of Libby, OverDrive has a great resource center: <https://resources.overdrive.com/customize-reading-settings-2/>

There are videos, details about on-demand and upcoming webinars, and training kits, including one geared for library staff.



Communications Corner

Did you know that you can edit a PDF document in Canva? Just import the doc via “uploads.” It will be saved in the “projects” folder. Then you can drag that doc into your design and edit everything on it -- text, logos, images, etc. If you haven’t tried Canva, it makes designing anything and everything a breeze. There is a free version that is very robust, or the paid version is \$119 per year. <https://canva.com>

Do you need to email large files? Check out the free site <https://www.wetransfer.com>. All you do is enter your email, the recipient's email, a message (if you want), and drag/drop the file(s). You'll receive a confirmation email.

If you need help with a communications project or resource, contact ICfL Public Information Officer Donna Eggers at donna.eggers@libraries.idaho.gov.

